

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-23 are pending in this application; Claims 21-23 are withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, Claim 1 is amended; and no claims are canceled or added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner indicating that Claims 13 and 16 include allowable subject matter. However, Applicants respectfully assert that in view of the above amendments and following remarks, all claims are in condition for allowance.

In the outstanding Office Action; Claims 1-3, 5-8, 11, 14, 15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,408,039 to Snyder; Claims 1, 5, 7, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,038,840 to Hall; Claims 1 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 1,488,901 to Armstrong in view of Hall; Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as anticipated by Snyder; and Claims 13 and 16 were indicated as including allowable subject matter.

With respect to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103, those rejections are respectfully traversed.

The applied art does not teach, disclose or suggest a single adapter fixing member formed around a circumference of an adapter that is configured to fix the lower portion of the adapter together with an adapter support member, with an outer surface of the adapter support member having a plurality of projected and recessed portions formed on top of each other with the plurality of projected portions configured to contact an inside surface of the adapter fixing member to secure the adapter with the adapter support member and adapter fixing member, as claimed in Claim 1.

Instead, Snyder discloses a plate a having several elastic fingers b upstanding therefrom in a frusto-conical relation held on by rivets or bolts as best shown in Figure 1. That is, each of the individual fingers b is secured to the plate a by a single rivet or bolt. In contrast, Claim 1 recites that a single adapter fixing member is formed around a circumference of an adapter that is configured to fix the lower portion of the adapter together with an adapter support member. This feature is not taught or suggested in Snyder as Snyder merely discloses individual rivets for each finger b.

Further, Snyder discloses that plate a is merely a square plate having a circular region in the middle that contacts the fingers b. Accordingly, Snyder does not teach or suggest an outer surface of the adapter support member having a plurality of projected and recessed portions formed on top of each other with the plurality of projected portions configured to contact an inside surface of the adapter fixing member to secure the adapter with the adapter support member and adapter fixing member. As discussed above, Snyder merely discloses a hole cut out of the middle of plate a. There is no teaching or suggestion for a plurality of recessed or projected portions configured to contact the adapter fixing member.

The remaining applied art does not make up for the deficiencies of Snyder discussed above. For example, Hall discloses a tool that includes primarily a circular ring or base 6 to which are affixed a plurality of fingers 7 that form a unit over which the grip in the form of an elastic tube, is applied. Accordingly, there is no teaching or suggestion for the features of independent Claim 1 discussed above.

One or more exemplary embodiments of the present invention, as set forth in the claims, can provide numerous advantages. By way of specific examples, the surface of the slanted portion 41 of member C as best shown in figure 4b, has a projected portions and recessed portions. The slanted portion 41 preferably has a ridge and a groove. When the slanted portion 41 has such a surface, member A can be supported by members B and C

while being strongly pressed to member C by member B. Therefore, the occurrence of problems in that the stretch label attaching device is separated into members A, B, and C, can be reduced or prevented.

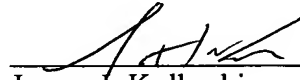
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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